



FSU-WESTERN: In Russia, widespread rain (10-50 mm or more) fell across northern and central areas (Central Region, Central Black Soils Region, and the Volga Vyatsk), slowing late spring grain harvest activities, but providing abundant topsoil moisture for winter grain emergence. Furthermore, the combination of abundant soil moisture and above-normal temperatures favored rapid winter grain emergence and crop establishment. Farther south, unseasonably warm weather was accompanied by little, if any, precipitation in the lower Volga Valley and North Caucasus, helping fieldwork for early summer crop harvesting and winter wheat planting. Weekly temperatures averaged 2 to 4 degrees C above normal in these areas, promoting rapid maturity of summer crops. In Ukraine, widespread rain (10-75 mm or more) interrupted fieldwork for summer crop harvesting and winter wheat planting, but provided abundant topsoil moisture for winter wheat emergence and establishment. The greatest amounts of rain (50 - 100 mm) were observed in central Ukraine. Weekly temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees C below normal in western Ukraine and 1 to 3 degrees C above normal in the eastern half of the country.